

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16-17 and 36-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for allegedly being obvious over Gast (WO 98/04269) and the rejection of claims 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for allegedly being obvious over Gast (WO 98/04267) are further traversed for the following reasons.

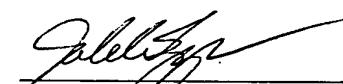
As acknowledged in the previous Office Actions, Gast fails to teach a composition containing drospirenone in micronized form. As a basis for the rejection, it is apparently alleged that micronization, or any other dosage form or regimen, of any known pharmaceutically active agent would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. It is further alleged in the Final Office Action that "micronizing the particles of the active agents increases their surface area, thereby resulting in more dissemination .. which would result in increased bioavailability of the actives *in vivo*."

Applicants previously pointed out that the mere knowledge in the art that drospirenone is a pharmaceutically active agent does not provide the requisite motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to support obviousness (under 35 U.S.C. §103) of an orally administrable composition comprising drospirenone in micronized form or any form promoting its rapid dissolution. In fact, one would not be motivated to so formulate drospirenone. As further support for these arguments, applicants submit a Declaration of co-inventor Dr. Lipp.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. But the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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